

Message Text

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:OEXC, UR, US

SUBJECT: STIPENDS FOR IREX JUNIOR SCHOLARS

REF: MOSCOW 11599

1. SECTION 1B OF "CONDITIONS GOVERNING EXCHANGES IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION" APPENDED TO "GENERAL AGREEMENT" STIPULATES THAT SOVIET JUNIOR SCHOLARS WILL RECEIVE DOLS 200 PER MONTH IN US AND US JUNIOR SCHOLARS WILL RECEIVE RUBLES 165 PER MONTH IN THE USSR.

2. IN MAY 1974-75 IREX UNILATERALLY INCREASED THE STIPEND FOR SOVIET JUNIOR SCHOLARS FROM THE MANDATORY DOLS 200 PER MONTH TO DOLS 230 PER MONTH IN THE HOPE THAT THE MHE WOULD RECIPROcate WITH AN EQUIVALENT 15 PER CENT INCREASE FOR US JUNIOR SCHOLARS IN USSR. AT PRESENT SOVIET JUNIOR SCHOLARS ARE RECEIVING DOLS 230 PER MONTH. THIS FIGURE WAS REDUCED TO DOLS 200 PER MONTH DURING THE 5 WEEK LANGUAGE TRAINING ONLY SINCE THE SOVIETS WERE RECEIVING ALL MEALS AT

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AMERICAN UNIVERSITY FREE OF CHARGE.

3. IF MGU INOTDEFIGURESREPORTED PARA 1 REFTEL ARE CORRECT, THEY REPRESENT UNILATERAL AND IMPERMISSABLE REDUCTION OF US JUNIOR SCHOLAR STIPEND SPECIFIED IN "CONDITIONS" GOVERNING "GENERAL AGREEMENT." REDUCTION MAY BE ATTEMPT TO ADJUST STIPEND TO DOLLAR/RUBLE INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE RATE, WHICH HAS CHANGED SINCE "CONDITIONS" WERE DRAWN UP IN 1973. HOWEVER, NEITHER GENERAL AGREEMENT NOR IMPLEMENTING "CONDITIONS" MAKES ANY PROVISION FOR SUCH UNILATERAL REDUCTIONS.

4. IREX PLANS SEND SEPARATE CABLE TO MHE (BAZHANOV) PROPOSING 25 PER CENT STIPEND INCREASE ON BOTH SIDES COMPUTED FORM BASE FIGURES CITED IN "GENERAL AGREEMENT" "CONDITIONS". NEW PROPOSED STIPENDS WOULD BE DOLS 250 AND RUBLES 206. THERE IS NOW NO AGREEMENT TO RAISE STIPENDS OF SOVIET JUNIOR SCHOLARS TO DOLS 300 PER MONTH, THOUGH THIS FIGURE WAS PROPOSED BY SOVEMBASSY. FIGURES SPECIFIED IN "CONDITIONS" OF "GENERAL AGREEMENT" ARE ONLY STIPEND FIGURES BINDING BOTH PARTIES.

5. REQUEST EMBASSY ADVISE MHE THAT US JUNIOR SCHOLARS ENTITLED TO RUBLES 165 PER MONTH. KISSINGER

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